

VENTNOR, ISLE OF WIGHT; URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1948

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

including the Report of
THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

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To the Chairman and Councillors.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of the Ventnor Urban District.

The year has been one of note inasmuch as it has seen the inauguration of the National Health Service. There have been some initial difficulties as far as the health department has been concerned. - The main subject of contention has been the handing over of the Ventnor Isolation Hospital. It was felt that the hospital could have been made to serve some useful purpose for the population of the district, but in spite of many representations the hospital remains empty. It is hoped that in the near future some satisfactory solution will be found.

For the rest, most of the initial difficulties have now been overcome and the future is awaited with confidence.

The vital statistics of the district present a reasonably satisfactory picture. The most significant feature is a fall in the birth rate from 22.1 live births per thousand of the population to 16.1 per thousand.

This is set off by a fall in the crude death rate from 20.0 per thousand of the estimated resident population to 14.3 per thousand. This is still slightly higher than that of England and Wales taken as a whole, but as previously mentioned, this figure is explained by the number of aged and retired people who come to Ventnor on their retirement on account of the equable climate of the district.

The stillbirth rate also fell from 52.2 per thousand live and stillbirths to 27.5 per thousand, and the infantile mortality has now reached the low figure of 37.7 per thousand live births compared with 55.1 in the year previous.

The Maternal Mortality remains nil for the fourth year in succession.

The notification of infectious disease has fallen to the figure of 31 notifications. These are mainly accounted for by the notification of whooping cough. There was practically no measles in the district during the year, and the main decrease in the notifications is accounted for by this reason. To offset this, however, there has been an increase in the non-notifiable infectious disease as calculated from the weekly returns of head teachers, 124 intimations being received as compared with 3 in the year previously. These notifications were largely due to mumps, chicken pox and ringworm.

The Diphtheria Immunisation figures have improved in respect of pre-school children, 33.9% now being considered protected. It is disappointing to note that there has been quite a marked fall in the percentage of school children who are now completely immunised, only 51.5% of these being considered fully protected as compared with 61.5% in 1947.

The local population has increased still further and now stands at 6,590 an increase of some 850 on the previous year's figure.

Only 51 new houses were made available to the public during the year and this is of most serious import. It simply means that the housing is not keeping pace with the increase in the population. The previous poor standard of accommodation existing for many persons is becoming further accentuated. The Department is powerless to deal with the rather less sanitary houses in the district as no alternative accommodation is available, and so the vicious circle continues. There is no doubt that the fall in the birth rate is directly attributable to the overcrowding and poor accommodation available for many young married people. The illhealth, suffering and domestic difficulty also consequent on the overcrowding and poor sanitary circumstances, is considered most serious and will continue to become more so until a really big re-housing scheme is effected.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN S. CAMERON.

Medical Officer of Health

Health Department,
Salisbury Gardens,
VENTNOR, I.W.

October, 1949.

VENTNOR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

JOHN S. CAMERON,

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector,

Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

W. G. SAUNDERS,

Cert. R.S.I., M.R.S.I.

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GENERAL

Statistics.

Area in acres	3522
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1948)	2289
Rateable value	£62,973
Sum represented by ld. rate	£246
Population - Registrar General's estimate	6590
<u>Live births</u> - rate per 1000 of estimated resident population	16.1
<u>Live births</u> - rate per 1000 of England and Wales	17.9
<u>Stillbirths</u> - rate per 1000 live and stillbirths	27.5
<u>Deaths</u> - crude death rate per 1000 of estimated resident population	14.3
Rate for England and Wales	10.8
Deaths from puerperal causes	Nil.

Deaths of infants under one year of age:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-

Death rate of infants under one year of age per 1000 live births	37.7
Death rate of legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	40.0
Death rate of illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	Nil.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Information regarding such services was fully set out in 1938 Report. There are no changes to record.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Scarlet Fever	6	6	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Pneumonia	2	-	-
Poliomyelitis	1	1	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum	-	-	-
Measles	3	-	-
Whooping Cough	17	-	-
Meningitis	-	-	-
Erysipelas	2	1	-
Total	31	8	-

	Menin- gitis	Scar- let Fever	Oph. Neo.	Diph.	Pneu- monia	Polio- myeli- tis.	Meas- les.	Whpg Cgh.	Erys ipel as	Puer. Pyrex
Under 1.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 and under 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
2 -do- 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-
3 -do- 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
4 -do- 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
5 -do- 10	-	5	-	-	-	1	1	6	-	-
10 -do- 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-
15 -do- 20	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 -do- 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 -do- 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
45 -do- 65	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Totals	-	6	-	-	2	1	3	17	2	-

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS

Urban District Ventnor.

Aged under 5 years. 5 - 15.

The Percentage of the child population it is considered were immunised at 31.12.48.

33.9.

51.5

(This estimate includes so far as can be assessed, children immunised in the Authority's area by private arrangements and children who have come into the area after being immunised elsewhere.)

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

From the weekly returns of Headteachers:-

Mumps	77
German Measles	--
Chicken Pox	37
Ringworm	10
Influenza and Influenzal Colds	--
Impetigo	--
Scabies	--
Jaundice	--

Total 124

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods		Total	New Cases				Total	Deaths			
			Pulm.		Non-Pulm.			Pulm.		Non-Pulm.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
Under	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1 and under	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
5	-do-	10	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	
10	-do-	15	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	
15	-do-	20	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
20	-do-	25	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	
25	-do-	35	3	-	2	1	1	-	1	-	
35	-do-	45	3	1	2	-	2	1	1	-	
45	-do-	55	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	
55	-do-	65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
65	-do-	75	1	-	1	-	2	-	2	-	
75 and over		1	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	
Total		* 14	3	7	-	4	** 7	2	5	-	

* This number includes 4 transfers from the mainland and 5 cases in which the death return gave the first information.

** This total includes 5 cases in which death return gave the first information.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year, 1948, for the Urban District of Ventnor in the County of the Isle of Wight.

PART I of the ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises.	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	16	32	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	17	42	1	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	33	74	1	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Insp. By H.M. Insp.		
Want of cleanliness(S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding(S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature. (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors(S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences. (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient.	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork.)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	1	-	-	-

WATER.

- The water supply to the area is derived from three sources, viz:-
- (a) The Wroxall-Ventnor railway tunnel originating from the downland catchment area.
 - (b) An adit leading into a well below the pumping station.
 - (c) A heading into St. Martin's Down for the supply of the Wroxall District.

Supplies are used also from the St. Lawrence Spring by purchase from the Rural District Council and a supplementary source from Wroxall by payment to Shanklin U.D.C. Also a second heading has been made at Manor Road, Wroxall, connected with the main supply.

Further water has also been purchased from the Sandown-Shanklin Urban District Council. Even so, the quantity of water available is not fully adequate for summer demands and has suffered recently as a result of low rainfall during the past few years.

The purity of these supplies is now beyond reproach but the physical properties fall short of excellence by reason of the high sileceous content. During the year the number of samples examined was:-

Chemical	Nil.
Bacteriological	8

In addition, certain other sources have been investigated by the Water Engineer with a view to exploring their suitability for increasing the yield available for the area, the number of such samples bacteriologically examined being 3.

HOUSING

Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year.

1.	(a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under P.H. or Housing Acts)	136
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	142
2.	(a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidating Regulations 1925-32.	Nil
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	Nil
3.	Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	Nil
4.	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	136

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority of their Officers.	136
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Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
1. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
2. Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
(a) by owners	Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
1. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	Nil
2. Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
(a) by owners	Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936.	
1. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	Nil
2. Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	Nil
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.	Nil

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

Houses, Public Health Act.	136
Slaughterhouses.	204
Butchers shops.	303
Other food premises.	333
Bakehouses.	68
Cowsheds.	58
Dairies.	64
Fish Shops.	58
Fried Fish Shops.	41
Drains inspected	114
Drains tested.	60
Revisits to property under notice.	97
Public conveniences.	48
Factory and Workshops.	74
Interviews with owners and others.	97
Complaints.	104
Pigsties and stables.	35
Miscellaneous.	82
Infectious diseases.	8
Fumigations.	26
Water samples.	8
	2018

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK CARRIED OUT.

Roofs repaired.	15
Dampness remedied.	8
Floors repaired.	7
Window sashes repaired.	4
Window sash cords renewed.	9
Doors repaired or renewed.	2
Grates -do-	9
Air bricks fitted.	3
Copper furnaces repaired.	-
Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed.	6
Eaves gutters and down spouts repaired or renewed.	11
Chimney pots renewed.	3
" stacks pointed.	5
Drains repaired and cleansed.	25
New sanitary bins supplied.	-
Water service pipes repaired or renewed.	5
New W.C. pans.	8
" " seats.	11
Soil pipes repaired.	3
Ventilation.	2
New grating to gullies.	-
Ceilings and walls repaired.	15
-do- cleansed and redecorated.	19
Yard Paving repaired or relaid.	2
Inspection Chambers built.	2
Water Service Pipes renewed.	3
Water Storage Tanks renewed.	2

STATEMENT OF MEAT CONDEMNED 1948.

	<u>Cattle excluding Cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed, if known.	-	-	-	-	4241
Numbers inspected.	-	-	-	-	4071
All diseases except T.B. - whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
All diseases except T.B. - part of organ condemned.	-	-	-	-	62
T.B. only - whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	1
T.B. only - Carcasses of which some part of the organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	155

SUMMARY OF MEAT AND FOOD CONDEMNED 1948.

Pigs carcasses.	1
Pigs heads.	69
Pigs plucks.	145
Bacon	11 lbs.

Total weight of meat condemned 2287 lbs.

FISH

Skate	3 stone
Cod Fillet	4 "
Plaice	3 "
Hake	2 "
Crab	6 "
Prawns	5 "
Haddock	6 "
Kippers	22 "
Codling	2 "
Lobster	2 "
Herrings	3 "
Smoked Salmon	7 lbs.
Total	<u>58 stone 7 lbs.</u>

VARIOUS OTHER FOODS.

Milk	183	tins
Sausage Meat	10	"
Beef Loaf	18	"
Veal Loaf	2	"
Pork Brawn	3	"
Ox Tongue	2	"
Stewed Steak	5	"
Salmon	34	"
Sardines	15	"
Pilchards	5	"
Fish Paste	7	"
Crab Dressing	2	"
Apricot	29	"
Peaches	16	"
Pears	18	"
Plums	1	"
Damson	2	"
Fruit Salad	4	"
Grape Fruit	24	"
Peas	72	"
Baked Beans	63	"
Tomatoes	9	"
Carrots	14	"
Beetroot	61	"
Mixed Vegetables	4	"
Spaghetti	4	"
Galatine	7	lbs
Cheese	12	"
Butter	3	"
Curry Powder	42	"

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October, 1949.

